

**Miami County
Juvenile Court**



1989

Annual Report

Honorable Richard A. Goater, Judge

The big news in 1989 was the development of plans for the 6 county coed rehabilitation center project involving Auglaize, Darke, Mercer, Miami, Preble and Shelby Counties. Charley Powell, Project Director, has implemented multi-county committees to develop residential programs in education, mental health, substance abuse, and after care treatment in each county. This has been possible through the work and concern of many voluntary care providers.

The physical design of the facility is being coordinated with the architect, a design committee of judges and the Department of Youth Services. It is expected that bids can be let and construction started in 1990.

The rehabilitation facility will have 36 beds, and a 24 bed detention center will be constructed in conjunction with it, utilizing many shared areas. The detention facility is a project of Miami County only, but will serve many other neighboring counties.

The need of services of Juvenile Court remains strong - an increase in filings of 8% was noted in 1989.

All programs to assist young people and their parents continue and function well, including self-esteem, family skills, alcohol/drug education, traffic school, community service, work restitution and adolescent sex offender.

The Miami County Youth Center, a 16 bed residential rehabilitation program for the less serious male offender, is on solid ground and doing an effective job under the direction of David Brown.

Work will continue to improve services to our female population.

Richard A. Goater,
Juvenile Court Judge

PROGRAMS OFFERED BY MIAMI COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

1. Probation
2. Alternative Education
3. Juvenile Work Program-Restitution
4. Miami County Youth Program
5. Foster Care and Group Homes
6. Family Skills
7. Adolescent Self-Esteem
8. Psychological Services
9. Alcohol/Substance Abuse Education
10. Juvenile Traffic Offender Program
11. Jail Removal Program
12. Adolescent Sex Offender Program
13. Other Court Services

- A. Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Cases
- B. Adult Civil Procedure
- C. Adult Criminal Procedure
- D. Marriage Consent
- E. Custody Review Board

1. PROBATION

Probation supervision is used after an official court order by the Judge or the Referee whereby a probation officer actively supervises and monitors the young person's adjustment in the home, school, and the community. The primary objective is to effect change while insuring compliance of court orders and to protect the interests of the community. Through the development and implementation of a structured and individualized treatment plan, the probation officer encourages the child to consider other available choices and to take ownership of his decisions and subsequent behavior.

Many varied techniques and approaches are utilized during the probation period, some of which are: the use of behavioral contracts, goal setting, experimental exercises (role playing), and use of logical consequences, each enhanced by the use of positives.

In addition, a Truancy Program was developed to better serve the needs of the unruly child who has truant from the home or school. Recognizing that "truancy" itself is often the symptom, or a means of coping or reacting to some other situation, the program has as its objective the identification of casual factors. The program consists of an intensive 90 day supervision period during which the child and the family participate in weekly meetings, attend Family

Skills, and complete Adolescent Self-Esteem groups as well as any additional Court orders. At the end of the 90 day period, the case is either terminated or transferred to the probation department for ongoing services. For this reporting period 36 youth were involved in the Truancy Program.

PROBATION SUPERVISION

Placed on probation	195
Males	137
Females	58

Terminated from probation

Males	192
Females	133
	59

Probation violations filed

Males	147
Females	104
	43

2. ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

In August of 1982 an Alternative Education program was begun. The program is designed for probationary youth who have been expelled or suspended from their home school.

There are several purposes of the program. It attempts to keep students current in their subject areas while they are on suspension in order to make their eventual assimilation back to their home schools much easier. It allows the instructor the opportunity to work one-on-one with youth who have difficulty in a particular subject area.

In addition it affords the teacher and the probation staff the opportunity to work with the youth in the development of new goals with regard to education.

The program was formerly housed in the Safety Building in Troy, but in the fall of 1984 it was moved to the Troy Recreation Center. Originally begun as a program for six to eight youth, it has grown considerably, often involving as many as twenty to twenty-five students each day.

The unforeseen increase in the number has necessitated a relocation of the school and a restructuring of the program.

NUMBER OF YOUTH IN PROGRAM (1989)

Male 108
Female 83

NUMBER OF STUDENT SCHOOL DAYS 25

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE 1573

MIAMI COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEMS SERVED BY PROGRAM 8.46

3. JUVENILE WORK/RESTITUTION PROGRAM

A work program involving Court youth has been in existence for several years. The major change which was initiated in 1982 was the hiring of a work program supervisor during the summer months who could assist in obtaining productive job sites and who could also supervise the youth and make their efforts more acceptable to the communities. 9

During the school year the youth are supervised on Saturdays by staff who provide assistance to the youth with their day to day problems while completing their work assignments.

The work program enables the youth to make restitution for the victim's loss if the defendant qualifies as being unable to make reimbursement. It also enables the youth to work off Court fines and to complete community service assignments.

During 1989 the youth continued to work at the Miami County Incinerator and at Brukner Nature Center. In addition the youth worked at the Piqua Heritage Festival, The Troy 4th of July program, the Tipp City Park Department, the Piqua High School track complex, and cleaned stadiums after football games for West Milton and Piqua High Schools.

NUMBER OF YOUTH INVOLVED IN PROGRAM

Male 551
Female 438

NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED 113

WORK CREDIT AGAINST FINES AND RESTITUTION AT \$3.00 PER HOUR

\$16,368

4. MIAMI COUNTY YOUTH CENTER

March of 1987 marked the opening of the Miami County Youth Center. Under the direction of the Miami County Juvenile Court and licensed as an Agency Group Home, the facility serves up to sixteen adjudicated males by court order from Miami, Shelby, and Darke county juvenile courts. Only those youth who do not pose a serious threat to the community are eligible for the six month treatment program. While at the Center, the youth attend a self-contained classroom eleven months per year and receive individual and family counseling services from a licensed psychologist.

In addition to providing supervision and treatment, the staff emphasizes issues of accountability, personal responsibility, and choices in an effort to assist youth in problem solving and coping services.

NUMBER OF YOUTH ADMITTED 16
NUMBER OF YOUTH DISCHARGED 16

5. FOSTER CARE, GROUP HOMES, AND SPECIAL PLACEMENTS

The providing of alternative residential placements for youth in home-like environments continues to be an integral part of Court programming. All placements are based upon a plan for the earliest possible reunification of the family unit. Many placement needs of the Court are being met by the Miami County Children's Service Board.

6. FAMILY SKILLS

Family Skills is a six session program which develops communication skills. It is contracted with and housed at the Upper Valley Joint Vocational School. The program attempts to answer the parental need for a practical, down-to-earth philosophy that can help them to understand the motivations of their teenage children.

The session consists of five two hour classes on Thursday evening. Parents and youth are divided into two separate classes, each under professional supervision.

The program seeks to provide unruly/delinquent youth with a timely and appropriate forum for the development of a positive mental attitude toward the family unit and new techniques for maintaining a workable family relationship.

Parents of unruly/delinquent youth make a self-analysis of their parenting skills and gain new techniques in developing confidence and control in relating to their children.

NUMBER OF YOUTH INVOLVED IN PROGRAM
NUMBER OF PARENTS INVOLVED

53
51

7. ADOLESCENT SELF-ESTEEM

The Adolescent Self-Esteem program is contracted with a licensed psychologist and is offered for both adjudicated and non-adjudicated youth. It is offered seven times each year for youth who have been identified as being in need of establishing personal values and accepting responsibility. The youth are also those in need of getting in touch with their feelings and in developing an increased awareness of choices.

A program consists of eight one hour group sessions provided by one licensed psychologist and one co-facilitator.

NUMBER OF YOUTH IN PROGRAM

93

8. PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Through a contractual agreement with a licensed psychologist, Miami County Juvenile Court is able to provide psychological diagnostic evaluations which become part of the Court record and which assist in the development of a treatment program for the youth who are referred.

The contract provides the Court accessibility to psychological service and also an understanding by the provider of the particular needs of the Court.

NUMBER OF YOUTH IN PROGRAM

52

9. ALCOHOL/SUBSTANCE ABUSE EDUCATION

A contract with the Miami County Alcoholism Program assists the Court with unruly/delinquent youth, professionally identified as in need of a program which may alter the symptomatic abuse of alcoholic beverages or other substances.

The youth meet Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for two hours daily during the last week of every month, excluding July and December. Parents may also attend. They are exposed to a similar curriculum, designed to increase the communication and the understanding between parent and youth where alcohol and/or substance abuse are involved.

NUMBER OF YOUTH INVOLVED IN PROGRAM

93

10. JUVENILE TRAFFIC OFFENDER PROGRAM

A Juvenile Traffic Offender Program was developed. The court contracted with the Upper Valley JVS to present the program on the first Monday evening of each month.

The program is designed to influence the attitudes of juveniles toward driving. It is not a driver's education program and does not teach driving skills.

At the time a juvenile driver is adjudicated to have two moving traffic violations, his or her driver's license is suspended for 90 days. His license suspension may be terminated in 30 days if he elects to attend this program. Youth who are adjudicated DWI or DUI are Court-ordered to attend the program, but they may not reduce their license suspension by attending. The program is offered at no cost to Miami County Juvenile Court.

NUMBER OF YOUTH INVOLVED IN PROGRAM

230

11. JAIL REMOVAL PROGRAM

Through a grant provided to Miami County Juvenile Court by the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Services, a project to result in 100% reduction in the number of youth held in adult jails was established. The project, begun in July, 1986, provides for secure detention beds in other counties and transportation to those facilities twenty-four hours each day. Other youth are monitored in non-secure home detention facilities by a home detention team. The project also provides emergency foster placements.

NUMBER OF YOUTH IN PROGRAM
DETAINED
HOME DETENTION

325
181
144

12. ADOLESCENT SEX OFFENDER PROGRAM

The Adolescent Sexual Offender Treatment Group provides direct educational and counseling services to offenders and their families. An assessment is conducted by the treatment team to determine the offenders risk level to the community.

The program provides weekly educational sessions to the offenders and their parents focusing on the psychology of the offender, progression of the offenders history, and feelings about self.

There is also a treatment phase during which the offenders participate in weekly group therapy. Families participate every third week during this portion of the project.

NUMBER OF YOUTH IN THE PROGRAM

11

13. OTHER COURT SERVICES

A. ABUSE, NEGLECT AND DEPENDENCY CASES

The juvenile is the only court to hear cases filed by the Miami County Children's Services Board wherein a juvenile is alleged to be an abused, neglected, or dependent child.

The court issues orders without a hearing, granting custody to Children's Services Board in emergency situations and also hears complaints for temporary custody (wherein the goal is to reunite the child with the family after the parents have complied with a plan to alter their behavior) and complaints for permanent custody (wherein it is necessary to terminate parental rights and to make permanency plans for the child.)

NUMBER OF CASES HEARD

58

CUSTODY AND PATERNITY CASES FILED IN 1989

81

These cases usually result in support orders being filed and support moneys being returned to the Department of Human Services which of course is a substantial savings to the taxpayer. The total support generated includes orders from previous years and is collected for Public Assistance.

B. ADULT CIVIL PROCEDURE

The Court also acts for private citizens who are separated but who are not contemplating divorce in making support orders and custody determinations.

The Court also receives paternity case filings. Again most of these cases are filed at the behest of the Department of Human Services to obtain support for children on ADC. New advances in blood testing techniques (HLA blood grouping) have resolved a lot of legal battling that used to occur.

C. ADULT CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

Closely aligned with the civil support cases are those criminal cases filed against fathers who have failed to support and provide for their children without justifiable cause.

Also, if an adult contributes to the unruliness or delinquency of a child, he is subject to criminal prosecution in Juvenile Court. In 1989 ten (10) such cases were filed.

D. MARRIAGE CONSENT

When young people desire to marry and they are not of legal age and the girl is pregnant, the Juvenile Court may grant that consent, and with custodial parent's approval, they may be issued a marriage license by Probate Court.

In 1989, four (4) such matters were handled.

E. CUSTODY REVIEW BOARD

The Custody Review Board consists of five interested citizens with training or experience in the field who are appointed by the Juvenile Judge. The members study the files of all juveniles who are placed in the care or custody of a public or private organization or agency. The board reviews the youth's placements at least annually and makes recommendations about these juveniles to the Court.

The following are members of the Custody Board.

- Mark Carli
- Jim Gover
- Rita Hollenbacher
- * Ben Hiser
- Shirley Saxton
- Mike Cargill

* No longer a member

- SBH
- Upper Valley Charitable Corp.
- Upper Valley JVS
- Public Defender
- Self-Employed
- Self-Employed

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SECTION 2151.18 OF THE REVISED CODE
 OF THE STATE OF OHIO
 1989 ANNUAL COURT
 MIAMI COUNTY JUVENILE COURT — TROY, OHIO
 RICHARD A. GOATER, JUDGE

Adult cases involving children (Paternity 77, Non-Support 1, Contributing 1) 89
 Children's Cases 3380
 TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES FILED, ADULT AND CHILDREN 3469

BREAKDOWN OF CHILDREN'S CASES FILED

Delinquency 1113
 Traffic 1647
 Dependency (25), Change of Custody (27), Neglect (19), Abuse (14), Support (20),
 Motion for Permanent (6) 111
 Unruly 494
 Other - Consent to Wed 5
 TOTAL 3370

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES DISPOSED OF

Adult Cases 65
 Children's Cases 3510
 TOTAL 3575

TYPES OF ADULT CASES - DISPOSED OF

Non-Support 1
 Contributing to Delinquency 10
 Paternity 54
 TOTAL 65

DISPOSITION OF ADULT CASES

Dismissed 30
 Court Order to Support 51
 Court Costs 25
 Jail Sentence 0

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN'S CASES - DISPOSED OF

Official Children's Cases 3510

TYPES OF CHILDREN'S CASES AND DISPOSITION

Traffic 1691
 Delinquency 1212
 Unruly 466
 Dependency and Custody 137
 Marriage Consent 4

DISPOSITION OF CHILDREN'S CASES

Temporary Custody - Children's Services 65
 Commitment to Department of Youth Services 13
 Suspended Commitment to DYS 26
 Placed on Probation 195
 Wards of Court only 4
 Fines and Costs Collected 28,855.00

Costs - Adult and Juvenile (General Fund) 29,522.20
 Referred to Other Courts 434
 License Held 350
 Dismissed or Withdrawn 174
 Placed in Detention 181
 Restitution 126
 Temporary Truancy Supervision 137
 Attended Traffic School 230
 Alternative Education School 108
 Attended Alcohol Education Classes 93
 Family Skills 39
 Terminated or Closed 245
 Commitment to Miami Youth Center 16
 Horrie Detention 144
 House Arrest 26